Message

From: Koppang, Michael [/O=MBGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D3A21FDA5F1D46F8A34767F784487BBE-KOPPANG, MICHAEL]
Sent: 2/10/2022 5:36:59 PM
To: Wright, David (LEG) [/o=MBGOV/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=DWright_leg]; Leitch, Donald (LEG) [/o=MBGOV/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=DLeitch_leg]; Goertzen, Kelvin (LEG) [/o=MBGOV/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=KGoertzen_leg]
CC: McNicholl, Mardi (LEG) [/o=MBGOV/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=MMcNicholl_leg]
Subject: Protest Update #11

Minister, Clerk, DM,

Emerson – At this point no one is presenting as a leader of the group at Emerson. This is a disorganized group with no clear demands or apparent objective. The initial estimates of participation at this point appear now to be high, as I understand it is more in the range of 20-30 people and their vehicles. There is a mix of large farm tractors a few tractor trailers and a smattering of smaller vehicles. There are also a few tractor trailers at a smaller point of entry South of Winkler on Highway 32. This crossing is not blocked and RCMP are currently ascertaining the intentions of the parked big rigs.

Overall, the RCMP strategy for today is that they will aim to restrict further growth of the Emerson blockade through strategic checkpoints. Their negotiation goal is to identify an agreeable protest area off the main highway and get the group to move to that area. There is an intent to utilize ticketing and inspection powers to assist in reaching the goal of re-opening the point of entry, given the current conditions. To that end the RCMP will be engaged with our Motor Carrier Enforcement for assistance. The RCMP have resources in place to maintain the Highway 59 Tolstoi crossing in the event today's negotiations do not bear fruit.

Winnipeg – Currently WPS is appearing at a special council meeting where a resolution is being debated that would call on the Province and WPS to take stronger actions to end the protest. We will continue to monitor the repercussion of this line of public discourse. WPS also appears to have made some headway in negotiating a further limiting of the horn honking during business hours. They are also preparing for counter protestors who are planning for a Saturday event. Those responsible for initiating the counter-protest are well known to WPS. WPS continues to appreciate the Provincial messaging.

Ottawa Airport – You may hear in the media or through other sources about a group of protestors who have blocked access to the Ottawa airport. RCMP and WPS have connected to monitor access to our airport, as there is a shared jurisdiction at Richardson. No attempts to block access to Richardson have been reported.

Over the past 18 hours law enforcement has seen a significant change of behaviour. In both the Steinbach school protest and the Emerson convoy, events over the past 18 hours have moved group behaviour from general discussion about a possible future event, to immediate action. There is no identifiable unifying force behind these separate protests. This can be better characterized as the manifestation of a wider attitude of civil unrest. It is for this reason that law enforcement continues to advocate for moderate commentary aimed at calming the widespread frustration. The main risk presenting in Manitoba currently is the enflamed rhetoric and likelihood of direct police action in other jurisdictions. This can be expected to further aggravate the existing situations around the Province. Both the RCMP and WPS have expressed gratitude at the support provided by all levels of the Provincial government.

Mike